

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by **Mizoguchi et al.** (USP 5,841,466). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection, to the extent it is considered to apply to the amended claims, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-4 have been amended to clarify the invention and to improve form. More specifically, each of claims 1-4 have been amended to recite “means for determining [or a determining circuit to determine] a number of times an erroneous password is entered and inhibiting operation of the liquid crystal projector by the operation means in response to determining that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times.” Support for this change is provided in the application specification, e.g., page 7, line 22 – page 8, line 17.

Claims 3 and 4 have also been amended to improve form without significantly changing the substance of the claims. For example, the language reciting the “external computer” has been moved from the preamble and to the body of the claims. Further, for example, “when” has been changed to “in response to” throughout claims 3 and 4.

The Mizoguchi et al. Reference

Mizoguchi et al. discloses a system that allows, upon input of a password, display of images on an image display only when the input password matches a registered password (see e.g., column 1, lines 33-47). More specifically, **Mizoguchi et al.** discloses a system that can restrict use of a head-mounted optical visualizing apparatus (e.g., restrict children from using the apparatus) by registering a password, storing the registered password in the device, comparing a password input by a user with the stored registered password, and allowing display of an image on an image display (liquid crystal display) only when the input password matches the registered password (see, e.g., Figs. 1A and 1B and column 3, lines 49-65).

The optical visualizing apparatus disclosed by **Mizoguchi et al.** includes a second remote controller 5 having numerical buttons 14 that are used to input a password (see Fig. 2 and column 2, lines 26-29) and a controller 30 connected to the second remote controller 5, the controller 30 having a memory for storing the password input by the second remote controller 5 (see, e.g., column 2, line 63 – column 3, line 4).

As shown in the flowchart of Fig. 1, in operation of the **Mizoguchi et al.** system, when a user turns on a power supply (step S1), a warning regarding eye health is displayed on a liquid crystal display 22 (step S2), and then the controller 30 reads the memory to judge whether or not a password is registered (step S3). If a password is not registered, the system displays a message asking whether the user wants to register the password. If the user wants to register the password, a series of steps are conducted whereby the user inputs the password by operating the

numerical buttons 14 of the second controller 5 (step S5-S10), allowing a user to start the display of an image (step S12).

If a user does not want to register a password, the user indicates this by depressing a button of the remote controller 5 and the controller 30 sets a “no-use registration” mode (step S14), allowing a user to start the display (step S12) without a password. See column 3, lines 23-49.

When a password is already registered, the controller controls a character generator 31 to cause the liquid crystal display 22 to display a message “input the password” (step S15), a user inputs the password by operating the numerical input buttons 14 of the second remote controller 5 (step S16), and it is judged whether the input password matches the registered password. When the passwords match, a user is able to start display of an image by turning on an image input switch SW. See column 5, lines 50-64.

However, unlike the presently claimed invention, **Mizoguchi et al.** does not disclose or suggest the feature of determining a number of times an erroneous password is entered and inhibiting operation of the liquid crystal projector by an operation means (operation unit) in response to determining that the number of times the erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times. Although **Mizoguchi et al.** discloses that entry of the password is retried if the password is not correct (see Fig. 1A, steps S15 – S17), **Mizoguchi et al.** is silent with respect to inhibiting operation after an erroneous password is entered a predetermined number of times.

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Art Unit: 2675

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 031016

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that independent claims 1-4 patentably distinguish over the **Mizoguchi et al.** reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §102 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

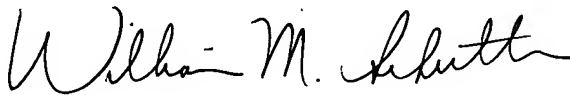
In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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